

[0045] What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:
 - receiving packets on a wireless network;
 - determining from the received packets information regarding a channel; and
 - if said information indicates the channel is not desirable, before an informational packet is received, switching to a different channel for scanning.
2. The method of claim 1, comprising, if a factor passes a threshold,
 - determining the channel is not desirable.
3. The method of claim 1, comprising determining if the number of retries for the channel is above a threshold.
4. The method of claim 1, comprising determining if the percent of time the channel is busy is above a threshold.
5. The method of claim 1, comprising determining if the number of active stations using the channel is above a threshold.
6. The method of claim 1, comprising determining if the strength of a signal on the channel is below a threshold.
7. The method of claim 1 comprising, if an informational packet is received, transmitting a request to join.
8. A wireless communication device comprising:
 - a controller to passively scan a channel on a wireless network to receive packets;
 - the controller to determine from the received packets information regarding the channel; and

wherein said controller is, if said information indicates the channel is not desirable, to switch to a different channel for scanning before an informational packet is received.

9. The device of claim 8, wherein the informational packet is a beacon packet or probe response.
10. The device of claim 8, wherein the channel is a communications channel with an access point, the access point providing a connection to a network.
11. The device of claim 8, wherein the controller is to, if a factor passes a threshold, determine the channel is not desirable.
12. The device of claim 8, wherein the controller is to determine if the number of retries for the channel is above a threshold.
13. The device of claim 8, wherein the controller is to determine if the percent of time the channel is busy is above a threshold.
14. The device of claim 8, wherein the controller is to determine if the number of active stations using the channel is above a threshold.
15. The device of claim 8, wherein the controller is to determine if the strength of a signal on the channel is below a threshold.
16. The device of claim 8, wherein the controller is to, if an informational packet is received, transmit a request to join.
17. A wireless communication device comprising:
 - a dipole antenna;
 - a controller to passively scan a channel on a wireless network to receive packets;

the controller to determine from the received packets information regarding the channel; and

wherein said controller is, if said information indicates the channel is not desirable, to switch to a different channel for scanning before an informational packet is received.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the controller is to, if a factor passes a threshold, determine the channel is not desirable.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the informational packet is a beacon packet or probe response.

20. A wireless communication system comprising:

an access point; and

a communications device including at least:

a controller to passively scan a channel

corresponding to the access point to receive packets;

the controller to determine from the received

packets information regarding the channel; and

wherein said controller is, if said information indicates the

channel is not desirable, to switch to a different channel for

scanning before an informational packet is received.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the informational packet is a beacon packet or probe response.

22. The system of claim 20, wherein the controller is to, if a factor passes a threshold, determine the channel is not desirable.

23. An article comprising a storage medium having stored therein instructions that when executed by a computing platform result in at least: packets being received from a wireless network; determining from the received packets information regarding a channel; and if said information indicates the channel is not desirable, before an informational packet is received, switching to a different channel for scanning.
24. The article of claim 23, wherein the instructions when executed by a computing platform result in at least, if a factor passes a threshold, determining the channel is not desirable.
25. The article of claim 23, wherein the instructions when executed by a computing platform result in at least determining if the number of retries for the channel is above a threshold.
26. A method comprising if, before an informational packet it received, it is determined from a set of received packets on a channel that the channel is not desirable, switching to a different channel for scanning.
27. The method of claim 26, comprising, if a factor passes a threshold, determining the channel is not desirable.
28. The method of claim 26 comprising, if an informational packet is received, transmitting a request to join.